A Word From Tim Downs - April

A Word from Tim Downs

Dear Friends,

"Great Vitality"

Many are aware that the Southeast Conference has been engaged in litigation with a small congregation of 20 members in the Atlanta area by the name of Center Congregational Church for about two years. While the Board of Directors of the Conference has been regularly updated on the progress of this case, I have not communicated widely about this matter while it was still in litigation.

In April the matter came before a Superior Court judge in Fulton County, who issued a summary judgment that ruled against the interests of the Southeast Conference. This week, the Board of Directors decided not to appeal the judgment. I remain convinced of the merits of our case, and do not regret that we sought a measure of justice in this matter. Over the course of this case there has been an unfavorable article in the *Wall Street Journal* as well as activity on the internet, both instigated by the congregation and their supporters. Much of this activity generated more heat than light.

In sum this case had to do with a trust that was established in the late 19th century by a woman named Harriet Cox, who gave land to this congregation and stipulated that it was to be used for the benefit of "the Congregational Denomination". In 2006 Center Church left the United Church of Christ in disagreement with actions of General Synod XXV. They seemed not to understand that the General Synod does not "speak for the denomination" but "to the denomination". Further the UCC respects the right each church in matters of faith and witness. Our intent was to ask the trustees to respect the wishes of Harriet Cox, namely for the church to remain committed to the "Congregational Denomination" that is the United Church of Christ as the established successor of the first congregational denomination, the National Council of Congregational Churches. The pastor who led them out was formerly Methodist.

From the late 1890's until 2006 the church was affiliated with the United Church of Christ and its predecessor denominations without break. It was served by ministers who were from our tradition. There have been numerous cases over the last 60 years across the United States that have reaffirmed the line of succession from the National Council of Congregational Churches leading to the United Church of Christ. These cases appeared to be not regarded by the court. There were other aspects of law that appeared to be overlooked as well. I found that in the judgment itself and in the statements of the opposing attorney, there were many inaccuracies of fact. Further I believe that we were very ably represented by counsel throughout. Recogniz-ing that all of this could be view as sour grapes on the part of a bad loser, I regret the outcome but do not regret our action based on principle. Simply put, we ran out of money, and were not being funded by a benefactor.

This is a season of great vitality on the part of our conference; this is a vitality that could be overshadowed by dwelling on this matter. As I write we are working with three

Oklahoma City church continues legacy of dedicated member

Stephanie Telleen chose to remember Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ in her will when she passed away, leaving her half-million dollar estate to the church. Now the Oklahoma City church will use that estate to remember Telleen for her selflessness and generosity by funding two missions close to her heart.

new church starts, with potential for several others. We have another three strong, vital congregations seeking affiliation with the UCC with the prospects for others to follow, many of them seeking us out for exactly the reasons that Center Congregational Church determined they could not remain in fellowship with us. We will move forward building on our strengths and the rich heritage with which God has richly blessed us.

Peace,

Tim Downs

Timothy C. Downs, Conference Minister

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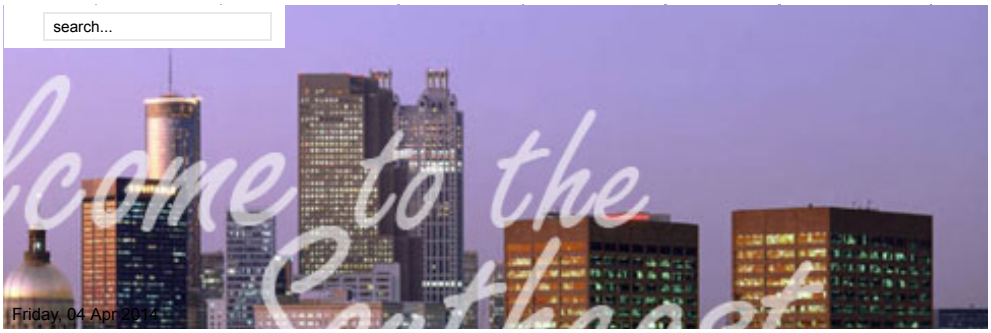

News Around the Conference - April

News from Around the Conference (News from our Local Churches)

> Thank you!
Thank you to the Generous Churches of the Southeast conference who gave over $11,000 to Haiti relief work. **Click here** to read about Haiti giving.

> Pleasant Hill Community UCC Votes $2.6 Million Capital Campaign
Following an extended period of discernment and study, Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, has voted to undertake a major capital campaign to expand their facility, dramatically increase the capacity of their sanctuary seating, and renovate their building to accommodate the growth in membership and programming that the church is experiencing. They are preparing to do a combined campaign including the Conference campaign in their plan.

> Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta Secures Financing for Building
Kirkwood UCC, a new church start in Atlanta, led by Susannah Davis has outgrown a succession of locations, and is preparing to purchase a building in collaboration with the Southeast Conference. They have approval for financing from the Church Building and Loan Fund of the UCC, and hope to purchase a building during 2010.

> Four Congregations across the Southeast Conference Exploring Affiliation with the UCC

From Jackson, MS to Alabama and then to Atlanta, churches are discovering the United Church of Christ, and beginning conversations about affiliating with us. Our conference staff is engaging congregations with program presentations, and orientations to the denomination to assist with these discernment processes. Most of our growth in membership has resulted from affiliating churches, followed by new church development.

> SEC Disaster Assistance & Relief Team News
The SEC DART (disaster assistance & relief team) continues to expand throughout the 5 state SEC conference. On March 20, 24 individuals from Georgia, South Carolina, & Tennessee attended disaster training at 1st Congregational Atlanta. Florence Coppola, (National Executive for Disaster Ministry), Joann Hale (Church World Service), and Ken Skilitzky (FEMA) each shared the scope of their influence in preparedness and recovery in both short and long term disaster work.
Click here to read update on D.A.R.T. Training - Energizing Volunteers.

TRANSFORMING CHURCHES, TRANSFORMING LIVES
Southeast Conference UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

Lifting Up….April

Father of Cindy Andrews-Looper Passed Away March

The father of Cindy Andrews-Looper, Pastor of Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, passed away in March following a time of illness and decline.

Charles Hein, Global Ministries Missionary to Africa died March 10th

Charles Hein, a resident of Uplands Retirement Village, and a retired UCC missionary who served for 40 years in Africa, died on March 10th. He is survived by his wife Gaby. Te focus of his work was adult literacy.

UCC News

UCC Newsroom
Headlines from the United Church of Christ

Oklahoma City church continues legacy of dedicated member
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LGBT Ministry and Advocacy in the UCC	A Word From Tim Downs - March 2013
Pathways- A Sojourners' Community	Steps to Planting a New Church

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Is Training Available?

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Haiti Relief

Thank you to the Generous Churches of the Southeast conference who gave over $11,000 to support the relief work in Haiti following the earthquake!
- ***Timothy C. Downs,*** *Conference Minister*

First United Church UCC | Belvidere, TN	$1,000
Pilgrim Congregational UCC | Birmingham, AL	$859
Brookmeade Congregational UCC | Nashville, TN	$125
Central Congregational UCC | Atlanta, GA	$732
Pilgrim Congregational UCC | Chattanooga, TN	$937
Church of the Savior UCC | Knoxville, TN	$3,118
Garden of Grace UCC | Columbia, SC	$200
Kirkwood UCC | Kirkwood, GA	$240
Open Community UCC | Atlanta, GA	$509
Peace Congregational UCC | Clemson, SC	$646
Pilgrimage UCC | Marietta, GA	$1115
Sandy Creek UCC | Lafayette, AL	$65
Talladega Congregational UCC | Talladega, AL	$1,000
United Church Cookeville | Cookeville, TN	$759

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Feature Focus - April

OCWM BASIC SUPPORT /09

Thank You! - New Challenges

2009 Our Church's Wider Mission — 2009 was a year in which the churches of the Southeast Conference stepped up to the challenges of these economic times. Our giving to OCWM Basic Support in 2009 was over $280,000, the highest level of giving in the history of the Conference. A little over $270,000 of that was from congregations, and the rest from the generosity of individual gifts through newly organized Friends of the Conference. Thank you to all who contributed and who encouraged the generosity of their churches. Look up your church's giving on the listing following this article. OCWM is the heart of our support for the Conference, its mission, and the mission of the entire United Church of Christ. It is the way in which we support the work and ministry of the entire church in all of its settings.

Our Covenant Keepers effort encourages churches to tithe or give at least 10% of their operating budget to OCWM Basic Support. Of our 51 churches, nine are Covenant Keepers. Of those nine, seven began as new church starts or affiliated with the United Church of Christ within the last decade, setting an example for all of our churches. Covenant Keeping new churches are: Sandy Creek UCC, Lafayette, AL, Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta, Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC, Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC, Beloved Community UCC, Birmingham, United Church of Cookeville, TN, and Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville. The two other Covenant Keepers are Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, and Liberty Congregational Christian Church, Brantley AL. We invite all churches to become Covenant Keepers. They can also become Strive to Tithers by accepting a goal of 1% of their annual operating budget a year increase in giving until they reach a goal of 10%.

The largest gifts to OCWM Basic Support are: $36,000 from Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, $33,500, Pleasant Hill Community UCC, $33,000 from Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, $21,000, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Birmingham, and

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$18,000 from Circular Congregational UCC, Charleston. Each of these congregations has been able to maintain or increase their giving in recent years.

Here is another side of this picture: below you can see, fifteen of our churches which contributed nothing to OCWM, fully one third of our churches. This is an area of deep concern to us.

This is not unusual as a pattern of giving. We depend on five churches for almost 50% of our giving, and three times that number give nothing. For our giving to grow stronger, we will need additional congregations to accept the challenge to become Covenant Keepers and Strive to Tithers. We will be working over the course of this year to raise the awareness of OCWM Basic Support as the giving that builds our capacity to strengthen our local churches, to build new churches, to equip leadership, and to reach around the world with a Gospel that empowers, heals, renews, and reconciles in the name of the still speaking God.

Click here to see **Churches' OCWM Gifts**.

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D.A.R.T.

SEC Disaster Assistance & Relief Team News

The SEC DART (disaster assistance & relief team) continues to expand throughout the 5 state SEC conference. On March 20, 24 individuals from Georgia, South Carolina, & Tennessee attended disaster training at 1st Congregational Atlanta. Florence Coppola, (National Executive for Disaster Ministry), Joann Hale (Church World Service), and Ken Skilitzky (FEMA) each shared the scope of their influence in preparedness and recovery in both short and long term disaster work.

The scope of disaster work is varied and includes but is not limited to the following:

- Preparing congregations for a potential disaster in their midst
- Preparing congregations to provide assistance to the community
- Preparing Kits of the Heart to be sent to communities at home and around the world in times of disaster.
- Encouraging and providing the opportunity for families & individuals to prepare a personal family go-kit.
- Assisting with long term recovery projects (work camps)
- Continuing support of OCWM

The following churches were represented at the training: 1st Congregational (Atlanta, GA); Rush Memorial (Atlanta, GA); Open Community (Atlanta, GA); Praxis (Atlanta, GA): Circular (Charleston, SC); Church of the Savior (Knoxville, TN); Holy Trinity (Nashville, TN); Pleasant Hill Community Church (Pleasant Hill, TN)

There is much that can be done in disaster ministry. You can help. Please watch for information and ways you can be involved in your congregation and community.

You may contact the following state leaders for more information about the training: Larry Calvert (Rush Memorial, Atlanta, Georgia); George Drumbar (Circular, UCC, Charleston, South Carolina); Bob & Connie Waidmann (Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee)

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Southeast Conference UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Conference News - April

"Behold! I Do A New Thing!"

Southeast Conference Prepares for Annual Meeting - *Click here*

June 10-12, 2010 | Church of the Savior | Knoxville, TN

Click here for ***Annual Meeting Information & Registration.***

Click here for ***On-line Registration.***

Click here for ***Lodging Information.***

Southeast Conference Board of Directors Highlights Meeting April 10th - *Click here*

> Report on Campaign for Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives

> Staff Reports:

Cameron Trimble
Kathy Clark
Tim Downs

> TAP Advisory Committee

> Marcia Bentley | Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries

> SEC History Project

> The Finance Committee

Alabama-Tennessee Association Annual Meeting to be held May 14-15 at Pleasant Hill - *Click here*

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THE CENTER FOR PROGRESSIVE RENEWAL

Celebrate! - April

Roy Bain, Pastor of Lanett Congregational Christian Church Retires

Roy Bain, who has served as pastor of the Lanett Congregational Christian Church for 19 years, was recognized by the East Alabama-West Georgia Association and the Southeast Conference at a reception on March 21st. The Association and Conference presented Roy and Wanda Bain with a Bible inscribed for the occasion, and a check to honor them for their service not only in Lanett. Roy's entire ministry was spent in the Southeast Conference. Over the years, he has been a leader in many ways among us. Most recently he has served as moderator of the Association and the Conference, delegate to General Synod, and chair of the Church and Ministry Committee.

Sadie Curry of First Congregational UCC, Talladega Recognized for Lifetime of Service

Sadie Curry, a lifelong member of the UCC, and member of First Congregational UCC, Talladega, was recognized as Teacher of the Year in Talladega several times over the course of her 41 year career. She was a finalist in the Jacksonville State University Hall of Fame Teacher of the Year Competition in 1995 and 1996, and was recently recognized in the publication *Greater Talladega Historic Past, Visionary Future.*

James Schwarzlose Interviewed on NPR

UCC-ers were startled to hear the familiar voice of James Schwarzlose the morning of March 25th speaking eloquently about the health care crisis in our nation, and its impact on him and his family. James is a member of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, and most recently served Jones Chapel UCC in Woodbury, GA. He is currently working in refugee resettlement.

New Church Planter Susie Smith Invited to Preach on Day 1, National Radio Program

Susie Smith, the pastor of Peace Congregational UCC, a new church start in Clemson, SC, has been invited to preach on *Day 1*, formerly *The Protestant Hour*, has been on the air for 65 years, and is broadcast through 200 stations across the US.

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"TRANSFORMING CHURCHES - TRANSFORMING LIVES"

C A M P A I G N U P D A T E

April 21, 2010

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED OUR FIRST CHURCH PLEDGE!

Birmingham, First Congregational Christian Church UCC - $24,000.00

THAT TAKES OUR TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED TO DATE TO:

$188,860!

THERE IS ONLY 5 WEEKS LEFT TO OUR TARGET DATE OF JUNE 1, 2010!

WE'D LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING POINTS AT THIS TIME...

. . . Almost all churches have been visited and we're grateful to all the volunteers who have given of their time and talent so that all the congregations in our Conference could hear the Campaign presentation. Early indications have been positive. If your church has not been contacted, please call the Campaign Office.

. . . Churches are diligently looking at their own capital needs in order to do a combined local / conference campaign. We encourage you to use the Local Church Campaign Manual and take the proper time to do your campaign right.

. . . What we are asking of each church to do during this phase of the Campaign is to set a goal that they will challenge themselves with over a 5 year pledge period. Each church will decide when payments on their pledges will begin in light of their own stewardship efforts. Momentum is growing each day.

. . . We encourage you to do an article explaining the Campaign in your weekly Bulletin and show the Campaign Video so all your members are made aware of the Southeast Conference ***"Transforming Churches - Transforming Lives"*** Campaign before your Congregational vote.

. . . One of our goals is to have ***every*** church feel they have done their **fair share** to make this Conference-wide effort a success! We have all needed the help of our Conference in the past and will again in the future. Let's make sure our Conference and our churches are renewed and strengthened through this Campaign!!

. . . If your church has adopted a goal, please complete the Declaration of Commitment Form that was turned over to you by the visiting Campaign Team and return it to the campaign office in the envelope provided.

. . . After your church sets its goal, pledge cards are available for conducting your local church campaign. Just call the Campaign Office at (800) 903-1535.

. . . If you have any questions or need assistance, you can call the Campaign Office at **(800) 903-1535.**

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REPRODUCE THIS BULLETIN AND INCLUDE IT IN YOUR SUNDAY HANDOUT OR PIN IT UP ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD FOR ALL TO SEE!!!

SEC Board Meeting

Southeast Conference Board of Directors Meeting Highlights—Meeting April 10th

• **Southeast Conference Staff Reports:**

o **Cameron Trimble** reported on her transitions into becoming the Executive Director of the Center for Progressive Renewal, which will partner with the Southeast Conference and other conferences to start and renew churches. She is directly a staff of ten people. She noted that we are working with four potential affiliating churches and three new church starts at this time. She noted progress in the area of IT as she transitions out of that areas of responsibility.

o **Kathy Clark** noted that **TAP (Theology among the People)** has received three grants. The first in collaboration with Lancaster theological Seminary for $350,000 will fund the Global Theological Education program conducted in collaboration with the Institute for Religion Culture and Peace in Chiang Mai Thailand. The second, from the Richard and Helen Brown Endowment in the amount of $7,000 will fund continued development of on-line and distant learning capacities, and the third from Central Congregational UCC Endowment for $1,500 will provide scholarship support to TAP participants. The TAP program hosted Geoffrey Black for lunch during his listening tour. She is leading an on line UCC history and polity class with an enrollment of 25, which is being offered for credit through Candler School of theology. TAP groups continue in Birmingham and Talladega, Nashville and Pleasant Hill, Columbia, SC, Stone Mountain, Thomasville and Savannah, GA.

o **Tim Downs** reported on continued development in the area of communication, and noted the launch of the new web site, which has been well received. The Leaders' Link continues to be developed as an e-newsletter. We have closed the books for 2009, and developed a budget with a deficit of $21,000 for 2010. He hosted the tour of the Southeast conference for Geoffrey Black February 6-7. He is preparing to host a gathering of progressive Korean pastors in Atlanta who are prospects for doing new UCC churches in this area.

• **TAP Advisory Committee: Sarah Kim** has been retained to coordinate the

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Global Theological Education program. Alumni from the previous trip will gather on May 28-29,2010. Contact Sarah Kim and welcome her on board.

• **Marcia Bentley**, member of First Congregational Christian UCC, Birmingham, has been nominated to the Board of Directors of wider Church Ministries, and also to the Board of Directors of the Conference in that capacity.

• **The History Project:** The board received **Michael Stroud's** report on the history project with appreciation. He is actively interviewing members of churches across the conference. He is digitizing the archives of the Conference. Contact the **SEC Office** via email or by phone (404.607.1993 / 800.807.1993) if you have historical materials for review.

• **The Finance Committee:** reported that we have closed the books on 2009. We were successful in limiting expenses, but due to professional fees, we are showing a significant deficit.

• **Report on Campaign for Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives:**

Most churches have been visited twice by their visitors, and the enthusiasm for the Campaign is high. We will announce the churches that have made commitments at the Annual Meeting in June. We are currently interviewing for a campaign follow-up person, and have very strong candidates. A number of churches have already determined that they will be working with a campaign director.

Click here to read the April campaign updat.

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ALABAMA -TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

May 14-15, 2010
Pleasant Hill (TN) Community Church UCC

REGISTRATION FORM

(Duplicate this form as needed to submit one form per person)
Seeking information for Association Committees, program planning & event notifications.

Name _____On name tag:_____

Address_____

_____

Home phone: _____Cell phone _____Email: _____

Circle one of the following: Clergy - Lay Delegate - Visitor - Student

Circle if special diet needed: Vegetarian - Gluten free - Vegan - Other:_____

Circle desire: Host Housing Companion:_____ Pet free- No stairs-

Church name/city & state: _____

Underline church position: Pastor- Moderator–Treasurer/finance – Education- Music
Underline concerns: Worship- Stewardship- Trustee- Music- Youth- Education- Outreach- Peace- Justice- Environment- Energy- Food/Poverty- Lifestyle- Democracy- List some others_____

$ _____ registration fee enclosed
(Checks should be made payable to Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC)

Registration fee is $30.00, $20.00 for Students in Care. Fee covers meeting expenses, Friday dinner, evening refreshments, Saturday continental breakfast, snacks and lunch.
- - Attendees must make their own lodging arrangements (information enclosed) - -

Please send completed form and check to
Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC
P.O. Box 167, 67 Church Drive, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - MAY 1, 2010

Alabama-Tennessee Association Annual Meeting - May 14-15, 2010
Directions to Pleasant Hill (TN) Community Church UCC

<u>From Knoxville or Nashville</u>: Follow Interstate 40 to Exit #317 (Crossville).
Turn left/South at exit (toward downtown) on Route 127 for approximately 2.7 miles. Turn right at traffic **signal #9** onto Elmore Road (Walgreen Drugstore on right corner). Elmore Road becomes Route 70 at 2nd stoplight - continue <u>straight on Route 70</u> for 9.5 miles to Pleasant Hill.

<u>From Birmingham (I-59 & I-24) and Chattanooga</u>: Turn north on Route 27.
Turn onto Route 111 north, then onto Route 127 north, to Crossville. At traffic **signal #9**, turn left onto Elmore Road (Walgreen Drugstore diagonal on left corner). Elmore Road becomes Route 70 at 2nd stoplight - continue <u>straight on Route 70</u> for 9.5 miles to Pleasant Hill.

<u>In Pleasant Hill</u>: turn right off Route 70 onto Main Street (Conoco station on left).
The church is approximately 1 mile on the left, across from the elementary school.

INFORMATION ON MOTEL HOUSING

We encourage you to take advantage of Local Host Housing which includes some Uplands apartments.

No deadline for reservation at either motel.

Inn of the Cumberlands Phone 931-484-9566 or 800-465-3069
2023 US-70 about 8 miles east of Pleasant Hill. $40 plus tax.
The Inn is a not rated, older motel, clean and under new management but not the high standard of Hampton Inn but better than last time offered.

Hampton Inn – Crossville Phone 931-707-7170
I-40 Exit 322 (Peavine Road) Visible at exit. 64 Hospitality Drive. $89.10 plus tax (the AARP rate)
From Uplands take Main Street, Pleasant Hill East to US Route 70. Follow Route 70 into town which becomes Elmore Street and follow it to the end. Turn Left on US Route 127 North (Main Street). Follow this about 2.7 miles to Interstate 40 East, and turn right. Proceed two exits and take the Peavine Road exit. The Hampton Inn will be on your right as you exit.

ALA/TN Annual Meeting Activities | May 14-15, 2010

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES AND HOST HOUSING

The Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC and Uplands Retirement Village are excited about hosting the 2010 Annual Meeting and are planning an extravagant welcome for the Association. Taking advantage of Pleasant Hill host housing is encouraged. It is expected that many will be tired from travel, the ecclesiastic council, worship and the dessert social and will want to hit the bed within minutes in a nearby home, often with people you know from other Association events. You need not sit up to all hours conversing unless you need to. On Saturday morning, you and your hosts can come to Adshead Hall for a continental breakfast by 7:30 a.m. and remain there for the first set of workshops.

You are all invited to stay over and attend Sunday worship at the church. Pioneer Hall Museum is open on Sunday afternoon; it is the one remaining building of the Pleasant Hill Academy, which contains two stories of interesting displays, historic furniture and tools, and sample rooms. The American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church founded the Academy.

The nationally recognized Cumberland County Playhouse will present the favorite show *Hello Dolly* at 7:30 on Saturday, May 15. The Sunday, May 16, 2:30 p.m. show is *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel.* For reservations for any of these shows, call (931) 484-5000.

The Homestead Museum and Historic District is south of Crossville on Hwy 127 at the intersection with Hwy 68. The Homesteads were built during the depression to provide land and housing for unemployed miners and others who were willing to work to support their families. Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Homesteads to dramatize the federal government's support of the project. The Tower is open from 10:00 to 5:00 on Friday and Saturday.

Cumberland Mountain State Park on Hwy 127 South has hiking trails and excellent food in its attractive lodge dining room. With luck, the spring blossoms will still be at their peak in this lovely wooded setting.

Historic Rugby, a restored community established for landless 'second sons' emigrating from England in the late 1800's, is about an hour's drive north of Crossville.

There is a lot to see and do in this area, so we hope you will be able to come enjoy the inspiration and fellowship of the Annual Meeting and be able to spend some extra time experiencing some of the other attractions on the upper Cumberland Plateau.

INFORMATION ON LOCAL HOUSING

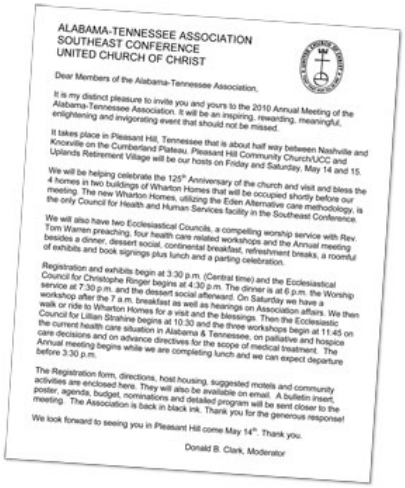
Local Host Housing: Many Pleasant Hill homes have either guestrooms or apartments, some with private entrances and some with multiple beds. If you would like to stay with a host family, please mark this on your registration sheet and also list anyone else you would want to room with.(like your spouse). **Let us know if you have any pet allergies.** If possible, also be sure to include an email address so arrangements can be completed easily.

TRANSFORMING CHURCHES, TRANSFORMING LIVES
Southeast Conference UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

ALA/TN Annual Meeting

Alabama-Tennessee Association Annual Meeting
May 14-15, 2001
Pleasant Hill Community Church

The Alabama-Tennessee Association will hold its 2010 Annual Meeting May 4-15 at Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC. The members of the Pleasant Hill community are opening their homes to those who wish to stay with host families. In addition to an ecclesiastical council at which two candidates for ordination will be making presentations, the meeting will introduce the those who attend to the Eden Plan, a humane and highly communal model of elder care which is the new direction in which Uplands Retirement Village is moving. For further information, schedule, registration, accommodations please contact **Don Clark** via email or by phone at (931) 277-5467.



ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Members of the Alabama-Tennessee Association,

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you and yours to the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Tennessee Association. It will be an inspiring, rewarding, meaningful, enlightening and invigorating event that should not be missed.

It takes place in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee that is about half way between Nashville and Knoxville on the Cumberland Plateau. Pleasant Hill Community Church/UCC and Uplands Retirement Village will be our hosts on Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15.

We will be helping celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the church and visit and bless the 4 homes in two buildings of Wharton Homes that will be occupied shortly before our meeting. The new Wharton Homes, utilizing the Eden Alternative care methodology, is the only Council for Health and Human Services facility in the Southeast Conference.

We will also have two Ecclesiastical Councils, a compelling worship service with Rev. Tom Warren preaching, four health care related workshops and the Annual meeting besides a dinner, dessert social, continental breakfast, refreshment breaks, a roomful of exhibits and book signings plus lunch and a parting celebration.

Registration and exhibits begin at 3:30 p.m. (Central time) and the Ecclesiastical Council for Christophe Ringer begins at 4:30 p.m. The dinner is at 6 p.m. the Worship service at 7:30 p.m. and the dessert social afterward. On Saturday we have a workshop after the 7 a.m. breakfast as well as hearings on Association affairs. We then walk or ride to Wharton Homes for a visit and the blessings. Then the Ecclesiastic Council for Lillian Strahine begins at 10:30 and the three workshops begin at 11:45 on the current health care situation in Alabama & Tennessee, on palliative and hospice care decisions and on advance directives for the scope of medical treatment. The Annual meeting begins while we are completing lunch and we can expect departure before 3:30 p.m.

The Registration form, directions, host housing, suggested motels and community activities are enclosed here. They will also be available on email. A bulletin insert, poster, agenda, budget, nominations and detailed program will be sent closer to the meeting. The Association is back in black ink. Thank you for the generous response!

We look forward to seeing you in Pleasant Hill come May 14th. Thank you.

Donald B. Clark, Moderator

Click here to read annual meeting activity sheet.
Click here for registration form.
Click here for directions and lodging information.

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- Lodging Information
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- Pathways- A Sojourners' Community

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- Southeast Conference UCC (SEC)
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- A Word From Tim Downs - March 2013
- Steps to Planting a New Church

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FAVORITE LINKS

- Bridge 4 Faith
- The Center for Progressive Renewal
- United Church of Christ
- Mission Insite
- Resource Center

EVENTS CALENDAR

« < April 2014 > »

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

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